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MILITARY

(Negative)

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INTERNAL

1. Leadership: Continuing talks among bloc and non-bloc communist party leaders assembled here ever since the November 7 celebrations may account for the announced presence in Moscow of all resident members and candidate members of the presidium. A busy protocol calendar including the visit of the Finnish President (O.V.KUUSINEN was conspicuously absent from activities with the Finns), four foreign national holidays, the finale of the Ukrainian Dekada and several special events permitted N.S.KHRUSHCHEV to appear in public on 15 publicized occasions.

2. New Jobs for Top Officials of the Buryat ASSR: At a plenum of the Buryat party Obkom organizational matters were discussed (Pravda, November 25). The plenum elected V.R.FILIPPOV as party first secretary of the Republic. His predecessor, A.V.KHAKHALOV, was released so he could take over as Presidium Chairman of the Republic's Supreme Soviet (from D. Ts. TSYREMPILON who is released "in connection with his illness.") Fillippov had been Chairman of the Council of Ministers for the past year. On the same day the Buryat ASSR Supreme Soviet announced Khakhalov's appointment, it also announced Fillippov's successor in the Council of Ministers: one A.U.MODOGEV.

3. New First Secretary for Lipetskiy Oblast (South-East of Moscow Oblast) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY): At an oblast party committee plenum to discuss organizational matters, K.P.ZHUKOV was released from his duties as party first secretary and from membership in the Lipetskiy party bureau (Pravda, November 22). The party's action on 54-year old CC Candidate member Zhukov, who was the first secretary of Voronezh Oblast from 1950-53, is now softened by the suggestion that his release is made "in connection with transfer to other duties." The plenum elected S.T.PUZIKOV to succeed Zhukov as First Secretary and bureau member. Chief of the CC Party Organs Section, M.T.YEFREMOV, attended the meeting. This is usual in such cases.

4. Central Committee Apparatus - Known or Suspected Changes:

(a) Probable Existance of Two "Foreign" Sections: Observations of reported Soviet attendance at arrivals of foreign party-government delegations prior to Moscow's celebration of the October Revolution Anniversary November 7 supported previous indications that there are now two CPSU CC "Foreign" Sections, one for bloc countries headed by Yu. V. ANDROPOV and one for non-bloc countries headed by B.N.PONOMAREV. Additional confirmation was received from a diplomatic colleague whoppersonally knows Andropov's believed deputy I.N.MEDVEDEV who was especially active in the recent greeting of bloc delegations. (see Despatch 332 of November 15, 1960).

(b) "New" Administrative and Trade-Finance Organs Section for the RSFSR: By identifying A.V.LAPTEV as chief of a sector of the Central Committee Section for Administrative Trade-Finance Organs for the RSFSR, an item in Leninskoye Znamya of November 23 not only revealed the existance of such a section but indicated the probability that still another section, that for Administrative Trade-Finance Organs for Union Republics exists, and that these

two sections possibly have replaced or absorbed the Central Committee's Administrative Organs Section. That this is a "new" development is suggested by the recent (and possibly first) identification of one V. LAPUTIN as a deputy chief of the Administrative Organs Section (Partiynaya Zhizn' No. 21 of November, 1960). The Administrative Organs Section Chief, N.R.MIRONOV, was most recently identified as a "chief of CC CPSU Section" in Sovetskaya Rossiya of November 4.

(c) "Vacancy" at Top of Agitprop for RSFSR Section: V.P.MOSKOVSKIY, who has been chief of the Central Committee's Section Propaganda and Agitation for the RSFSR (at least up to an identification in the October 12 issue of Sovetskaya Rossiya), probably has left this position. Since November 7 he has been identified on several occasions, as a deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, most recently as the official representative of the "centre" of the Mari ASSR anniversary celebrations November 19.

(d) New Soviet Ambassador to Albania Shilkin former CC Section Deputy Chief I.V.SHILKIN, last noted by the Embassy as Deputy Chief of the Central Committee Section on Party Organs for the Union Republics, has been named to replace V.I.IVANOV as USSR Ambassador to Albania. (Pravda, November 24) Ivanov has been in Albania since 1957 so the new appointment has the appearance of normal transfer.

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

5. Bloc Meeting: (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) The press continued silence on the meeting of communist party leaders in the Kremlin which now is into its third week. There have been several indications that the Soviets and Chinese have been unable thus far to compose their ideological differences. One of these is the length of the meeting. Another was a Pravda editorial repeating familiar arguments used by the Soviets against the Chinese. More concrete was a fairly reliable report that Liu Shao-ch'i attacked Soviet foreign policy and Khrushchev personally in a long speech given at the party conference on November 22. At a theatrical performance on November 23 which was attended by members of the CPSU Presidium and foreign communist leaders, the Chinese and Albanians made themselves conspicuous by being absent.

6. Congo: The main developments of the week -- the UN proceedings on the seating of the Kasavubu delegation, and the events connected with the expulsion of the Ghanaian charge in Leopoldville -- were reported in some detail in the Soviet press. Predictably, Soviet propaganda stressed African opposition to Kasavubu in the UN discussions and observed a discreet silence on the support he received from Afro-Asian sources. The final vote recognizing the Kasavubu delegation was explained as an example of the US "machine-vote majority" in action. The Soviet public was told that Mali and Guinea had withdrawn from the conciliation commission, whose departure for Congo had now been postponed, and that thus the US had succeeded in its plans to frustrate the efforts of Asian-African countries to end the Congo crisis. The press virtuously condemned the attack on the Ghanaian Embassy in Leopoldville as illustrative of Mobutu's alleged disregard for the UN.

In contrast to this highly tendentious reporting, a long Izvestiya (Nov. 19) article (Emb. despatch 358) provided the Soviet public with an unusually frank discussion of the Congo situation, including the internal factional divisions and the conflicting policies of African and Asian states. The article suggested a considerable measure of Soviet official disillusionment and frustration over Congo, including Lumumba's activities, even though the former Premier was referred to at one point as a "popular hero."

7. Soviet Reaction to US Fleet Movements in Caribbean: US naval action in response to requests for support from Guatemala and Nicaragua evoked a new barrage of charges in the Soviet press. Although initially the Soviet press described the attempts in the two Central American states as "peoples' uprisings" and condemned US action as intervention, the burden of Soviet output quickly shifted to the line that the US action was in fact directed against the Cuban revolution. Considerable effort was devoted to portraying all "Latin America as boiling" and the impression was left that the Cuban revolution is serving as the source of inspiration therefor..

8. Japanese Election Results: (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) The Soviet press, in reporting the results of the Japanese elections, turned what evidently was a disappointment to them into a victory for the "democratic forces" of Japan -- the communists and socialists. It claimed that the Japanese had voted for neutralism and against militarism and that, as in the case of the recent Italian elections, this reflected a global trend.

9. Expulsion of US Assistant Air Attache: In what was clearly a retaliation for the indictment of Soviet UN Secretariat Employee Melekh for espionage, the Soviet Government demanded that Assistant Air Attache, Major MacDonald leave the Soviet Union within 48 hours, on the charge that he engaged in spying while travelling around the country. Expulsion of MacDonald was promptly reported in the press.

10. Laos: The Soviet press gave considerable attention to events in Laos, charging the US with flagrant intervention in Laotian internal affairs and warning against the threat to peace in Southeast East this has posed. It is interesting that no mention yet has been made of Soviet offers of aid to the Souvanna government to be channeled via North Vietnam.

MILITARY

(Negative)

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